

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01800 301022Z

16/42

ACTION MMS-04

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R 291430Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6672

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1800

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN (1800 VICE 1900)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CZ, OGEN, PINR

SUBJECT: OPRED: DAO STAFFING IN PRAGUE

REF: STATE 160916

1. IN REVIEWING THIS QUESTION WITH THE DAO HERE, I UNDER-
STAND THAT DIA NEVER AGREED TO DELETING THE NCO SLOT, BUT
MERELY REFRAINED FROM PRESSING THE MATTER FORMALLY INTO
INTER-AGENCY ADJUDICATION PROCEDURES. (DIA DID AGREE TO
ERASE ONE SLOT, FOR AN NCO WIFE/SECRETARY. THIS SLOT IS NO
LONGER AT ISSUE). I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE DAO,
RATHER THAN IMPERIL HIS PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH ME, HAS NOT
ENCOURAGED DIA TO TRY TO REVERSE MY DECISION. HE HAS ALWAYS
MAINTAINED, HOWEVER, THAT HE BADLY NEEDS THE NCO SLOT.
WHILE HE IS CAREFUL NOT TO CAST ASPERSIONS ON PREVIOUS
MILATTS, HE DOES EMPHASIZE THAT DURING THE PERIOD WHEN I
FORMED MY OPINION OF THE NEEDS OF THE DAO FOR SUPPORT, ONE
DAO WAS AWAY ILL AND ANOTHER WAS OUT OF ACTION WITH A BROKEN
LEG FOR A GOOD PART OF THE TIME. BOTH OF THE PRESENT
MILATTS ASSURE ME--AND I BELIEVE THEY ARE SPEAKING IN
COMPLETE GOOD FAITH ON THIS --THAT (A) THE SITUATION AS
REGARDS WORKLOAD THAT OBTAINED DURING MY FIRST MONTHS HERE
NO LONGER OBTAINS; (B) THEIR STAFFING IS THE LOWEST IN EE,
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01800 301022Z

DESPITE LARGER WORK REQUIREMENTS THAN SOME OTHER POSTS;

(C) THEIR OWN WORK SUFFERS BECAUSE THEY MUST DO TECHNICAL SUPPORT TASKS WHICH A TRAINED NCO CAN DO (BUT PRESENT MAN AND WIFE TEAM CANNOT).

2. AS DAO HAS PRESENTED THE MATTER TO ME, FOLLOWING ARE NEW ELEMENTS: (A) WITH TWO FULL-TIME AND HEALTHY MILATTS, WORKLOAD IS HEAVIER BY FAR THAN PREVIOUSLY ASSESSED BY DIA AND DAO. (B) AFTER A YEAR OF TRYING TO OPERATE WITHOUT NCO POSITION, MILATTS FIND THAT THEY CANNOT KEEP UP WITH HIS WORK AND THEIRS TOO, AND FIND ALSO THAT PRESENT HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM CANNOT COVER THE WORK OF THE NCO POSITION. (C) DAO HAS TRIED THE SOLUTION OF TDY SUPPORT, AND FINDS IT IMPRACTICABLE AS PERMANENT SOLUTION. (D) ADMINISTRATIVE WORKLOAD OF DAO IS CONSIDERABLY HEAVIER THAN WE ANTICIPATED IT WOULD BE. (OUR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER CONCURS IN THIS ARGUMENT.) ADDITIONALLY, WHILE HOUSING WAS ALWAYS A SECONDARY ISSUE WITH ME, IT IS TRUE THAT OUR HOUSING SITUATION HAS IMPROVED, AND ACCOMODATION CAN NOW BE FOUND FOR AN NCO.

3. AFTER CONSIDERING THESE ARGUMENTS-- PARTICULARLY THE EARNEST ASSURANCE OF THE DAO THAT HE FEELS HE CANNOT DO HIS JOB PROPERLY WITHOUT THE ADDITIONAL MAN -- I AM NOW INCLINED TO ACCEPT ONE ADDITIONAL NCO ON THE DAO STAFF. SINCE THE SLOT WAS NEVER DELETED, ACCORDING TO DIA, I ASSUME THAT IT IS MERELY A MATTER OF THE DAO'S NOTIFYING DIA THAT THE ASSIGNMENT PROCESS FOR A NEW NCO MIGHT BEGIN, SINCE THE EMBASSY IS NOW WILLING TO ACCEPT HIM. HOWEVER, IF THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT ANY EMBARRASSMENT, OR ANY COMPROMISE OF OUR OVERALL POSITION AS REGARDS DOD STAFFING OVERSEAS, MIGHT RESULT FROM MY WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE ADDITIONAL NCO, THEN OF COURSE I WOULD WANT TO HEAR THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS. AS THINGS NOW LOOK HERE, I AM PERSUADED THAT THE MORALE AND THE WORK OF OUR MILATTS WOULD JUSTIFY ACCEPTANCE OF THE ADDITIONAL MAN.
SHERER

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